

TYPHOON LOLA (35W)

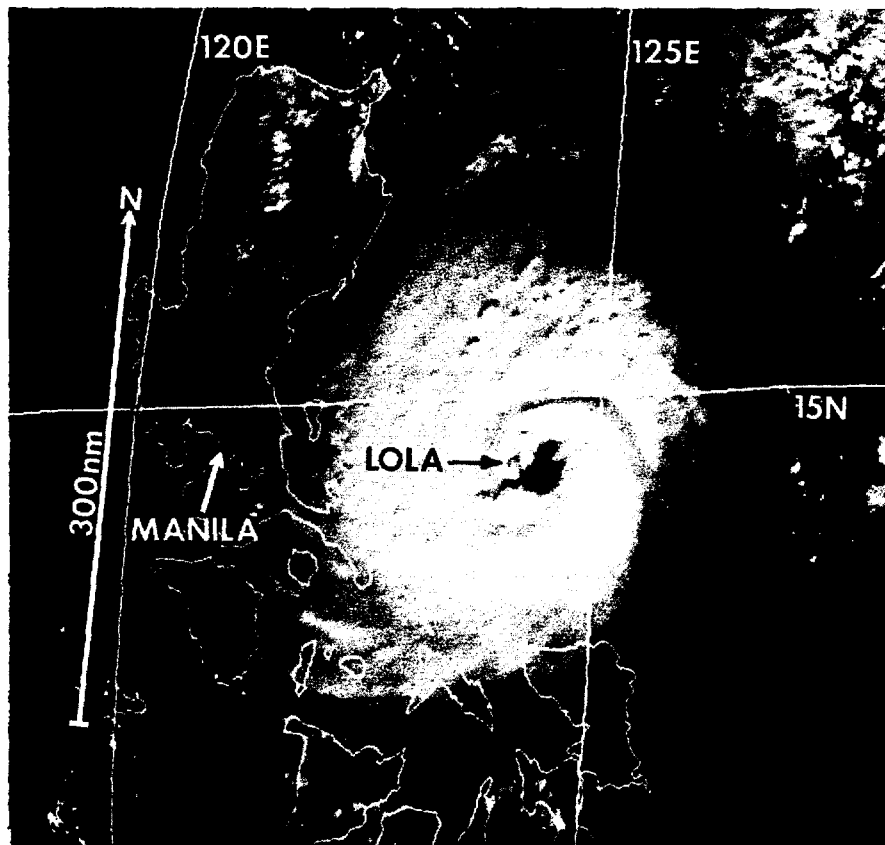


Figure 3-35-1 Lola with a 20 nm (35 km) diameter eye approaches southern Luzon (051230Z December visual GMS imagery.)

I. HIGHLIGHTS

Forming in an active near equatorial trough that ultimately produced three late-season typhoons, Lola slowly intensified to 80 kt (41 m/sec) before crossing the heavily populated Bicol region of southern Luzon (Figure 3-35-1). After killing hundreds of people and displacing more than half-a-million, the typhoon headed toward the southwest, tracing a sinusoidal path across the South China Sea. Lola rapidly reintensified over the South China Sea before moving over southern Vietnam.

II. CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

November

270600Z - An isolated area of persistent convection near the western Marshall Islands resulted in the first discussion of the disturbance in the Significant Tropical Weather Advisory.

December

010400Z - A TCFA was issued based on a consolidation of convection near the circulation center.

011900Z - A second TCFA was issued when the disturbance accelerated and moved out of the original TCFA area.

020000Z - The first warning was based on increased convective organization and a satellite intensity estimate of 30 kt (15 m/sec).

030000Z - As a result of a satellite intensity estimate of 45 kt (23 m/sec), Lola was upgraded to a tropi-

cal storm. Post analysis of synoptic and satellite data indicate that Lola probably attained tropical storm intensity at 021800Z.

040600Z - The appearance of an eye and a satellite intensity estimate of 65 kt (33 m/sec) led forecasters to upgrade Lola to a typhoon.

080000Z - After weakening over the Philippines and reintensifying in the South China Sea, Lola was upgraded to typhoon a second time based on a satellite intensity estimate of 65 kt (33 m/sec).

090600Z - The final warning for Lola was issued as it was rapidly dissipating over Vietnam.

III. IMPACT

In the Philippines, Lola killed over 230 people and forced more than 583,000 to flee their homes in the heavily populated Bicol region of southern Luzon near the city of Legazpi.

In southern Vietnam, the death toll was 78 with another 78 people reported missing. The region also suffered heavy agricultural losses with at least 40,000 acres of corn and 27,000 acres of rice destroyed.